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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Ms. Kimberly Kyff, 2006–2007 Michigan Teacher of the Year

SUBJECT: Teacher of the Year Report

**Michigan Teacher of the Year Highlights**

- o Meeting with Dr. Book and Dr. Gunnings-Moton – MSU School of Education

Discussed the Broad Future Teachers Scholarship program and the Broad Teaching Fellows program. The Broad Foundation funded a partnership between MSU and Detroit Public Schools (DPS) to recruit and train a new generation of urban teachers. The project is designed for DPS students who want to pursue a career in teaching. The students receive financial support to cover the cost of attending MSU and after completion of the five-year program, they return to teach in the Detroit Public Schools. The Broad Teaching Fellows program provides MSU teacher candidates the opportunity to complete a seven-week summer fellowship in the DPS during which they are paid to teach in the district's summer school. This is open to all MSU teacher candidates with first choice given to DPS graduates. Discussed establishing Jamieson Elementary as a site for pre-service and student teachers. Discussed the role of higher education in developing teachers for the urban and high-priority setting.

- Identify and support practices, systems, and programs that sustain the social, mental, physical, and emotional growth of all students.
- Objective 2

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
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- Ensure that Michigan classrooms are staffed with high quality teachers and paraprofessionals under the direction of administrators who are committed to instructional excellence. Objective 3

- Workshop for pre-student teachers and student teachers – members of Kappa Delta Pi, University of Michigan

The title of the workshop was "Fostering Creativity in the Classroom." We discussed using lesson design to encourage creative problem solving by students.

Discussed the Advocating Strong Standards-based Induction Support for Teachers (ASSIST) website.

- Ensure that Michigan classrooms are staffed with high quality teachers and paraprofessionals under the direction of administrators who are committed to instructional excellence. Objective 3

- Delivered Keynote Speech at induction ceremony for new members of Kappa Delta Pi – Eastern Michigan University

The focus of the speech was on the importance of teaching and what makes a great teacher.

- Ensure that Michigan classrooms are staffed with high quality teachers and paraprofessionals under the direction of administrators who are committed to instructional excellence. Objective 3

- Meeting with beginning education students from Eastern Michigan University

Discussed need for high quality teachers in urban areas.

Discussed the role of the Comer Model in school reform.

Promoted use of the ASSIST website.

- Identify and support practices, systems, and programs that sustain the social, mental, physical, and emotional growth of all students. Objective 2

- Ensure that Michigan classrooms are staffed with high quality teachers and paraprofessionals under the direction of administrators who are committed to instructional excellence. Objective 3

- Network of Michigan Educators Steering Committee

The Network continues to make plans for the annual Conference and Recognition Banquet, "Connections for Action: Courage to

Teach, Courage to Lead," at the Lansing Radisson Hotel on December 7/8, 2006

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- Visit to Detroit Public Schools
  - Reviewed use of the ASSIST website with staff from the Harris Center.
  - Met with leaders of the Candidate Support Providers program for National Board Certification. Developing a support system for re-take candidates.
    - Led writer's workshop and conferencing with 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
    - Led staff development on building academic vocabulary based on Robert Marzano's work.
  - Ensure that Michigan classrooms are staffed with high quality teachers and paraprofessionals under the direction of administrators who are committed to instructional excellence. Objective 3
  - Improve all students' achievement in all academic areas especially in English language arts and mathematics. Objective 1
- Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP)
- State Board of Education Meeting
- Participated in the Teacher Preparation Policy Study Group